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DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF
MARTYRINGA (LEPIDOPTERA: OECOPHORIDAE)
WITH A NOTE ON ITS BIOLOGY

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Two larvae of an unknown species of Lepidoptera from Alexandria, Louisiana, were given to me by D. J. Pirone. After the adults emerged, it was determined that they were a new species of *Martyringa*.

***Martyringa ravicapitis*, sp. n.**

Labial palpus, head, thorax, and forewing ochreous, heavily overlaid with dark fuscous. Second segment of labial palpus (Fig. 1) dark fuscous on basal two-thirds on outer side; some fuscous based on inner side; third segment with fuscous annulus on basal half. Scape of antenna fuscous except for narrow terminal ochreous annulus; segments of shaft with narrow, fuscous basal rings, ochreous distally. Forewing (Fig. 2) with two black spots at basal third, anterior one ending where posterior one begins and preceded by a patch of skewed scales (this area appears translucent from the undersurface), followed by an ochreous bar; third black spot at end of cell; black spot near base along dorsal margin, gradually moving costad; series of black pencils on outer third of wing; wavy, subterminal line; fuscous terminal line; apex ochreous; cilia fuscous basally, gray distally from apex to tornus, gray dorsally. Hind wing fuscous; cilia ochreous tipped at apex (fuscous basally) becoming fuscous posteriorly. Legs blackish fuscous outwardly with ochreous annuli at tips of segments and at middle of hind tibia.

Female genitalia: (Fig. 4) Genital plate subrectangular, emarginate at tip; ostium a semicircular slit at base of genital plate; posterior third of ductus bursae heavily sclerotized, terminating in a wider, semicircular-shaped portion which overlaps the genital

HODGES

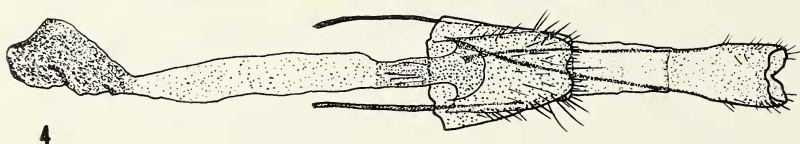
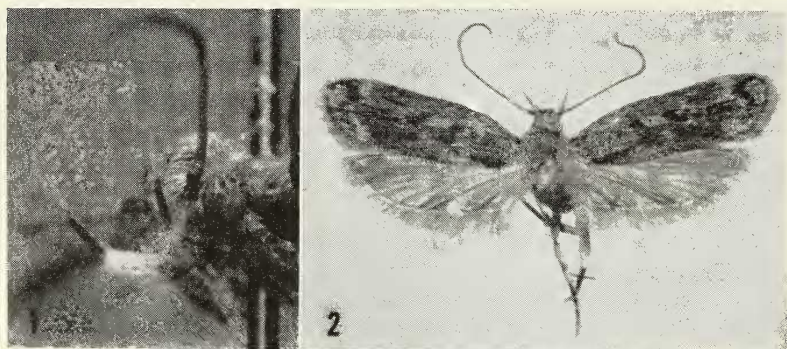


Fig. 1, *Martyringa ravicapitis* Hodges, sp. n., fronto-lateral aspect of head. Fig. 2, *M. ravicapitis* Hodges, sp. n. type, Alexandria, Louisiana, February 24, 1950. Fig. 3, *M. latipennis* (Wals.), Six Mile Creek, Ithaca, New York, July 6, 1957, J. G. Franclemont. Fig. 4, *M. Ravicapitis* Hodges, sp. n., type, ventral view of female genitalia.

plate; remainder of ductus bursae lightly sclerotized; bursa copulatrix with small spines which give it a reticulate appearance.

Alar expanse: 20 mm.

Holotype: female, Alexandria, Louisiana, February 24, 1959, reared by R. W. Hodges. Type in U.S.N.M.

Paratype: female, Alexandria, Louisiana, May 5, 1950, reared by R. W. Hodges. In my personal collection.

Martyringa ravicapitis differs from *M. latipennis* (Wals.) (Clarke, 1941, Fig. 90) in that the genital plate of *ravicapitis* is more than twice as broad as the connection of the ductus bursae, whereas, at this juncture the two are equal in *latipennis*. Superficially, *ravicapitis* appears much darker than *latipennis* (Fig. 2); the two basal black spots which are offset in *ravicapitis* are nearly vertical in *latipennis*; and the subterminal line of *ravicapitis* is narrower and more noticeably curved than that of *latipennis*. The hind wing of *latipennis* is more nearly quadrate than that of *ravicapitis*.

Biological Note.—The first larva was found associated with frass and eggs of *Anisomorpha ferruginea* (Beauv.) (Orthoptera, Phasmidae) located on and under some partially decaying boards. At the time the phasmid eggs were collected, no larva was noticed. However, about one month later a tube-like structure composed of frass, eggs, and detritus was detected in the mixture. This structure was turned over to the author by D. J. Pirone after it had been separated from the detritus and placed in a rearing tin. The adult emerged in four weeks. It is likely that the larva feeds on the frass or decaying wood (Clarke, 1941, p. 230) because it was associated with these two items for eight weeks in captivity. Later, a second specimen was found, and it produced an adult. Unfortunately, only two specimens were found; thus, there was no opportunity to study the larva in detail.

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REFERENCE CITED

- Clarke, J. F. G. 1941. Revision of the North American moths of the family Oecophoridae. Proc. U. S. N. M. 90, no. 3107: 33-286.